Worcester Diocese 1368.e.11

ARTICLES
OF
Viſitation and *Enquiry*,
CONCERNING
Matters Eccleſiaſtical,
Propoſed to the
CHURCH-WARDENS of every Pariſh
WITHIN
The Dean'ry of ~~Bridgnorth~~ Worcester
at the Primary Viſitation of the Right Reverend Father in God, JAMES, by Divine Permiſſion, Lord Biſhop of *Worceſter*, held in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on Thursday the second Day of July 1761.

Note, The old Church-wardens, to whom theſe Articles ſhall be delivered, are required to bring them with them to the Viſitation, and there to deliver them in with their Preſentments, that the Viſitor may ſee them given over to the new Church-wardens, upon their being ſworn into their Offices.

The Form of a Church-warden's OATH.

YOU shall Swear that you will well and truly execute the Office of a Church-warden within your Pariſh for the Year now running; and that you will truly and faithfully, according to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge, preſent ſuch Things and Perſons as are preſentable by the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm.

So help you GOD.

N. B. *The Church-wardens of every Pariſh are required to read over carefully, and to conſider the* ARTICLES of VISITATION. *They are likewiſe required to ſhew the ſame to their Miniſter, who is deſired to peruſe them, and to inſtruct the Church-wardens in the due Execution of their Office; and in caſe they ſhall obſtinately refuſe to preſent ſuch Things and Perſons as they know to be preſentable, the Miniſter is deſired to preſent the ſame himſelf, and likewiſe to preſent the Church-wardens for the great Neglect of their Duty herein.*

BRITISH MUSEUM

ARTICLES

OF

Viſitation and *Enquiry*, &c.

TIT. I. *Concerning Miniſters.*

IS your Miniſter a Perſon of a good Life, and ſuch as is ſuitable to his ſacred Calling?

Is he reſident upon his Benefice; or if not, hath he a Licenſed Curate, well qualified to ſupply his Place, reſiding upon the ſame?

Does he duly perform all the Offices of the Church? Does he adminiſter the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ſo often in every Year, that every Pariſhioner may receive at leaſt three Times every Year, of which *Eaſter* to be one? Does he preach every Lord's Day? In reading the Morning and Evening Service and all other Offices,

Offices, does he uſe the Form of Words preſcribed in the Book of Common Prayer, without any Addition, Diminution, or Alteration, and that only at ſuch Times and Places as the Rubric directs? Does he take Care to baptize Infants, inſtruct the Youth in the Catechiſm, and prepare and preſent them to be confirm'd by the Biſhop? Hath he married any Perſons in a clandeſtine and irregular Manner? Is he ready and careful to viſit the Sick? Does he bury the Dead, and take Care to perform all other Parts of his Office and Duty as he ought to do?

TIT. II. *Concerning Church and Pariſh Officers.*

ARE your Church-wardens duly elected? Have the laſt Church-wardens given up their Accounts, and delivered to you the ſucceeding Church-wardens whatever Money, Papers, or other Things do belong to your Pariſh Church or Chapel?

Have you a Pariſh Clerk duly appointed, of Twenty-one Years of Age at the leaſt, of an honeſt Life and ſufficient to perform his Duty in Reading, Singing, and all other Parts of his Office?

Doth he or the Sexton open and ſhut the Doors, toll the Bells, *&c.* at due Times, and take Care that the Church or Chapel be conſtantly kept clean and in a decent Manner?

TIT. III. *Concerning the Pariſhioners.*

ARE there any in your Pariſh guilty, or whom you think upon juſt Grounds to lie under a common Fame, of Adultery or Fornication? Or are any married together within the Degrees prohibited?

Are there in your Pariſh any notorious common Swearers or Drunkards?

Are

Are there any who abſent themſelves from all publick religious Worſhip on the Lord's Day ?

Are there any who behave themſelves indecently or irreverently in the Church ?

Are there any who follow their ordinary Labour, or keep open Shops on the Lord's Day ; or who keep diſorderly Houſes ; and more particularly, upon the Lord's Day, are any ſuch Houſes by any frequented ?

TIT. IV. *Concerning Churches, &c. Church-Yards, Manſion-Houſes of the Miniſters, Glebe, &c.*

IS your Pariſh Church or Chapel, together with the Chancel, kept in good and fit Repair ? Are the Roofs well covered, the Windows well glazed, the Walls well plaiſtered, and the Floors well paved ?

(N. B. *In order to preſerve the Pavement ſmooth and regular, it is neceſſary that, when any Corpſe is buried in the Church, the Coffin have an Arch of Brick Work made over it, to prevent the ſinking of the Ground when the Coffin breaks ; to be done at the Charge of thoſe who bury the Perſon.*)

Are the Seats well made, diſpoſed, and preſerved ? Hath any Perſon erected or altered any Seat without due Leave of the Ordinary firſt obtained ?

Have you a Bell or Bells to ſummon the People together ? Are they and the Steeple and Tower they are in, in good Order and Repair ?

Is there a decent Font in the Body of the Church ? Is there a decent Communion Table in the Chancel, with a Carpet, and another Covering of white and fine Linnen to ſpread thereon at the Time of the Adminiſtration of the Lord's Supper, and alſo another Linnen Cloth to cover the Elements ? Have you a fair Chalice or Communion Cup with a Cover ; and one or more Flaggons of Silver or Pewter, a Patin

or

or Plate for the Bread, and a Baſon or proper Utenſil for the Offertory, all dedicated to this ſacred Uſe only?

Have you a convenient and decent Reading-Deſk, and a Pulpit decently adorned with a Cloth and Cuſhion; a large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, a Book of Common Prayer, a Book of Homilies, and a decent Surplice kept clean, and fit for the Miniſter to officiate in?

Have you a Regiſter Book of Parchment; and are the Names and Surnames of all ſuch Perſons as are Chriſtened, Married, or Buried, duly enter'd therein, with the Names and Surnames of the Parents of ſuch as are Chriſtened? And is a true Copy thereof, ſubſcribed by the Miniſter and Church wardens, ſent into the Biſhop's Regiſtry yearly, within one Month after the 25th of *March*?

Have you a true and perfect Terrier of the Glebe Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, *&c.* as alſo a Note of all ſuch Penſions or Profits, (within or without your Pariſh) beſides the ordinary and uſual Tythes, as belong to the Rectory, Vicarage or Curacy of your Pariſh? Is ſuch Terrier exhibited into the Biſhop's Regiſtry, ſigned by your Miniſter, Church-wardens, and principal Inhabitants, and is a Copy thereof kept in your Pariſh Cheſt?

Have you a true and faithful Account, preſerved in Writing upon Parchment, of all Benefactions given to your Church or Pariſh? Have you a Table of them hung up in your Church? Are all ſuch Gifts and Charities applied to their proper Ends and Uſes? Have you an Inventory of all Things belonging to your Church? Have you a Book wherein to keep the Church wardens Accounts? Have you a ſtrong Cheſt and three Locks and Keys, wherein to keep well and ſafely the aforeſaid Books, Papers, Plate, and Furniture, proper to be kept therein; and are all theſe Things well kept and preſerved?

Is your Church or Chapel-Yard ſufficiently and well fenced and decently kept?

Are the Houſes, Out-Houſes, *&c.* of your Rector or Vicar in good and decent Repair? Have any Buildings belonging to the Rectory or Vicarage been pulled down without Licence firſt obtained?

TIT. V. *Concerning Schools and School-Maſters.*

IF there is any School in your Pariſh, do you know any Cauſe of Complaint, either in Relation to the good Life, Abilities, or Care of the Maſter, or any Thing elſe belonging to the ſaid School?

Doth the School-Maſter teach his Scholars the Church Catechiſm, and inſtruct them in religious Principles?

Doth any keep a publick or private School in your Pariſh who is not thereunto licenſed and allowed by the Ordinary?

The END.

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